

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation into the Natural Gas Procurement
Practices of the Southwest Gas Company.

Investigation 01-06-047
(Filed June 28, 2001)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING
SETTING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARINGS
AND REQUIRING CUSTOMER NOTICE**

The Commission has stated that the purpose of this proceeding is to investigate "SW Gas' [sic] procurement costs and purchasing practices from June 1, 1999 through May 31, 2001." (Order Instituting Investigation, June 28, 2001, p. 4.) As part of this proceeding, we are scheduling Public Participation Hearings. At the Public Participation Hearings, interested members of the public may make their views known to the Commission on the issues to be addressed in this proceeding. Public Participation Hearings in this proceeding are set for the following dates and locations.

January 8, 2002
7:00 p.m.

Big Bear Lake
Holiday Inn Big Bear Chateau
Huntress Room
42-200 Moonridge Road
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

January 9, 2002
7:00 p.m.

Apple Valley
City Hall Council Chamber
(Inside Police Department)
14900 Dale Evans Parkway
Apple Valley, CA 92307

Comments at the Public Participation Hearings may address issues to be examined in this proceeding. Issues currently identified in the scoping memo are as follows:

1. the reasonableness of SW Gas's procurement costs and purchasing practices;
2. the steps taken by SW Gas to participate in regulatory proceedings affecting gas practices;
3. the actions that SW Gas took to assist customers in meeting the rapidly rising cost of gas.

The respondent utility is directed to coordinate with the Commission's Public Advisor's Office regarding the preparation and content of bill inserts providing notice of these Public Participation Hearings. The respondent utility should incorporate the above information, and continue to coordinate with the Commission's Public Advisor's Office.

The respondent utility is required to provide timely notice to their customers of the Public Participation Hearings. The respondent utility shall send written notices, in a form approved by the Public Advisor's Office, either by mailing them postage prepaid directly to customers, or by including notices with customers' regular bills. To the extent the utility bills its customers electronically via the Internet, notice to those customers may also be done electronically.

Anyone who needs assistance with participation in this proceeding should make use of the resources on the Commission's web site, www.cpuc.ca.gov, or

should contact our Public Advisor's Office, which is available to help parties understand how to participate in a proceeding, how to file a pleading, and to answer other questions about Commission procedure. The southern California office can be reached at 213-576-7055 or public.advisor.la@cpuc.ca.gov.

IT IS RULED that:

1. Public Participation Hearings will be held on the dates and at the locations and times described above.
2. The respondent utility will provide a company representative at each of the Public Participation Hearings in, or within 125 miles of, its service territory, to be available to address any comments or concerns expressed by attendees.
3. The respondent utility will provide notice to its customers not later than 10 days prior to the earliest Public Participation Hearing in, or within 125 miles of, its service territory. Notices shall be provided either as an insert with a regular bill or may be mailed separately if necessary to reach customers at least 10 days before the relevant Public Participation Hearing.
4. The respondent utility will provide to the Public Advisor's Office, not later than five days prior to the relevant Public Participation Hearings, a letter certifying that it has complied with the requirement of Paragraph 3 above. The compliance letter shall state the date(s) notices were sent to customers and the approximate number of customers so notified and attach one copy of the actual notice used.

5. Any party that desires expedited or daily transcripts should advise the Chief Hearing Reporter by telephone at (415) 703-2288 no later than three days prior to the first day of hearings.

Dated September 14, 2001, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ TIMOTHY J. SULLIVAN

Timothy J. Sullivan
Administrative Law Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Administrative Law Judge's Ruling Setting Public Participation Hearings and Requiring Customer Notice on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated September 14, 2001, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ JACQUELINE GORZUCH

Jacqueline Gorzuch

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.